

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:DCUNNINGHAM/MW

APPROVED BY ;EA - MR. DUBS

D - MSPENDLETON

S/S-O:LMACFARLANE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BG, IN, US

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI'S MEETING WITH ACTING
SECRETARY

1. AMBASSADOR SIDDIQI PAID COURTESY CALL ON ACTING SECRETARY INGERSOLL FEBRUARY 4 AND REITERATED IN LOW KEY FASHION BDG'S WORRIES OVER BORDER INCIDENTS WITH INDIA. SIDDIQI SAID THAT BDG HAD PROPOSED TO INDIA A NEW ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN BORDER OFFICIALS, BUT GOI HAD NOT RESPONDED TO SUGGESTION THUS FAR. ATTACKERS OF BORDER POSTS WERE ASSUMED TO BE DISAFFECTED CITIZENS OF BANGLADESH WHO HAD FLED TO INDIA FOLLOWING CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT AND WERE AIDED AND SHELTERED BY INDIA.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SIDDIQI ALSO DISCUSSED IMPROVED BANGLADESH ECONOMY, AND EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT MISTAKEN SOCIALIST IDEAS OF PREVIOUS REGIMES HAD BEEN REPLACED BY POLICIES DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE FREE ENTERPRISE.

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HE TOLD INGERSOLL FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OUTSIDE MAJOR

CITIES IS NOT ABLE TO GET FOOD TO THOSE IN GREATEST NEED,
BUT SAID BUMPER HARVEST HAD IMPROVED SUPPLY SITUATION. HE
EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE AND ASSURED ACTING
SECRETARY THAT BANGLADESH WAS MAKING GREAT EFFORTS TO
DEVELOP ITS ECONOMY. KISSINGER

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